THE GENESEE FARMER.

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THE GENESEE FARMER.

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1834.

The Wheat Worm.

We have heard great complaints, within a few days, of the dewastation making by this insect in our wheat fields; and it is apprehended, that in many cases there will be nearly a total loss of crop. Its ravages are far greater than before known. The attention of the readers of the Farmer has been before called to this subject, particularly in an article published on the 19th April. The experiments and observations of Mr. Bauer, there detailed, are worthy of all notice; as the time employed in making them,—some twenty years—and the high standing of the experimentor, leaves little doubt of the correctness of his conclusions, that the seed of the worm is sown with the grain. It will be recollected, that steeping the seed grain in lime water was found to destroy the seed of the insect. However doubtful this may appear, it is worth every one's trial; for independent of this object, it is now a well established fact, that soaking seed wheat in lime water will destroy the seed of smut. N. B. As it is the causticity of *quick* lime which destroys the seed of the insect as well as the parasite—of the worm as well as of the smut—lime recently burnt should alone be employed; for when it has been air slacked, or suffered to imbibe carbonic acid by long keeping or exposure, it loses its causticity, and is unfit to be employed, being little better than pounded chalk or limestone.

But for the wheat worm, the crops in the county of Albany have a promising appearance. The season has been very favorable for barley, one of our staple crops. Corn is rather backward; but it stands well, and the recent showers and warm weather have brought it forward remarkably.

I am making an experiment with bees, which I will detail to you. My boxes or hives are made in pairs, one to set on another, and when thus doubled, there are two hooks on the upper, and two buttons on the lower box, to keep them in place. In the one intended for the lower box, which is about nine inches deep, I make one, two, three or four holes, with an augur, and invert over each of these a half gallon glass jar, such as are used by apothecaries, the mouths of which are slightly set into the cover of the lower box. I then clap the upper box over these glasses, and fasten it to the lower one with the hooks. The bees have access to the jars, but not otherwise to the upper hive; the cross pieces in which keep the glasses in place. The expectation is that these jars will be filled with pure honey, and that I shall at any time be able to remove them, in part or whole, and to substitute other glasses, without disturbing the bees. I have seen tumblers thus filled with honey, and I think there is little doubt of my succeeding with the jars. My bees in the garret continue to do well. I took considerable honey from their habitation last winter; they have since filled the space, and considerably enlarged the comb otherwise.

Albany, July 6. J. B.

Summer Flowers.

(*In a letter of the 1st instant.*)

It is probable that the number of persons who cultivate shrubs, is three times as many as those who delight in herbaceous plants. The former are chiefly wanted to embellish door yards; and well do they answer that purpose when judiciously chosen; but it is a great improvement to have amongst them, some of the softer foliage and superior splendors of the Crown Imperials, the Lilies, and the Pæonies. *Clematis erecta* is another perennial worthy of a place in the shrubbery. Its stalks are four feet high, and at this season it is a mass of bloom. The petals are white a little tinged with green, but fragrant, and very conspicuous from its multitude of flowers.

Catananche cærulea has an elegant flower, not *cerulean*, but approaching a bluish purple. It is possible however, there may be other varieties. It is a native of the South of Europe, requiring some protection during the rigors of this climate; but it sometimes finds a situation among other plants, such as grass or chickweed, in which it can pass the winter in safety.

In *Potentilla nepalensis* the flowers though beautiful, are scarcely so large or so numerous as the length of the stalk and the size of the leaves for an elegant plant would require. In other words, it is a little inclined to be straggling. This may be partially remedied however, by a prop; and it is hardy, though a native of the sunny hills of Nepaul.

Roses are generally admired; but I know not how to frame an apology for the practice of imposing fine names on varieties which differ so imperceptibly that for all the purposes of ornament, one kind may well serve in place of ten, or even of a hundred others. Amateurs ought to see them in bloom before they purchase, and not undertake to form any judgment whatever from *the flourish* of a name. The "Belle Alliance" however, is a very distinct variety. The petals or flower leaves are emarginate with a white stripe in the notch, which gives it a very singular and beautiful appearance.

Azalea viscosa with white fragrant blossoms, is now in bloom.

Phlox carnea has delicate flesh colored flowers on stems about two feet in height. In autumn or earlier, it sends off horizontal shoots above ground one foot or more in length, which endure the winter, and which root freely if covered with earth.

Campanula is a genus of two hundred and forty species, many of which are very ornamental. *C. Medium*, a very showy biennial, known under the name of Canterbury bells, has one variety with white, and another with blue flowers; and in two varieties of *C. persicifolia*, the same colors occur with greater delicacy of leaf and flower. The latter is a perennial. Last year I noticed *C. grandiflora* for its elegance. I have also obtained seeds marked *C. azurea*, *C. rapunculoides*, and *C. sarmatica*, the plants from which are too nearly alike to be readily distinguished, if indeed they possess any distinctive characters; but another objection is that they increase so abundantly in the garden as soon to become troublesome. With *C. glomerata*, as a neater plant, I am so far, much better pleased. The flowers are clustered in heads.

Hypericum Ascyron has flowers about three inches in diameter, of a whitish yellow, and at first the color is very delicate. It is a perennial from Siberia.

At this time, I have nothing more splendid than *Silene virginica*. It succeeds best where it is protected from the sun in the hottest part of the day. This is also the case with the white and blue varieties of *Polemonium cæruleum*, which are elegant plants.

Lychnis fulgens, one of the brightest of all scarlet flowers, should have its roots separated in the latter part of summer, otherwise the stems appear to impoverish each other. Newly parted plants or seedlings, are the finest.

The Dyer's Broom (*Genista tinctoria*) is not so splendid as the English Broom (*Spartium scoparium*), but still it is a desirable shrub. It sustains no material injury from being killed to the ground in winter, as it sends up new shoots enough to flower most profusely. When these stalks are very numerous, it is best to remove a part, and support the remainder by a stake.

The Chinese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera flexuosa*) an evergreen, has been less injured by the frosts of the present year than in five preceding winters, and it is now in full bloom. It is fragrant, and perfumes the air to a considerable distance.

The red and white varieties of Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*) when growing together, present a pleasing contrast of colors. In *Loudon's* Encyclopædia of Plants it is represented as an annual! but in *Gray* where it was well described, it is properly marked as a perennial.

The Carolina Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*) is well deserving of cultivation as an ornamental plant and as an object of curiosity to people in general. It agrees well with our climate. In the autumn of 1832, I had taken up a root which was forgotten by the person for whom it was intended, till it was injured by exposure to the weather. I then found it, and planted it in a warm situation; but not a single leaf appeared the next season. This spring it came up, and is now growing remarkably well.

HORTICULTURAL.—It is stated as a singular fact, that if a plant is drooping or dying in a hot house, it is almost sure to recover, if a plant of chamomile is placed near it.

A horse has a very sweet tooth—when he is unwell and wont drink, mix molasses or coarse brown sugar in the water; he will then drink freely.

To Destroy Lice and Caterpillars

ON FRUIT TREES.

From a communication in the Sandusky (Ohio) Clarion, signed S. M. Lockwood, we make the following extract, from which it will be seen that the writer has found the practice of inserting sulphur in the body of fruit trees, highly beneficial in the destruction of Caterpillars. At page 369, vol. 2d of the Farmer, our correspondent *A Practical Gardener*, reported several experiments in plugging trees with sulphur, from the result of which he came to the conclusion that "sulphur when applied in this manner, has no effect whatever on insects." In these experiments it had no effect on the common *aphis* or plant louse; but nothing is said of the caterpillar, and we presume, from our knowledge of the experimentor, that there were none *left* on his trees to be destroyed by the sulphur. We should, however, be gratified to learn from *A Practical Gardener*, if his experiments were made under such circumstances as to enable him to decide whether the sulphur would have any effect on the caterpillar.

"I have observed that fruit trees, in this region, are almost universally injured by lice and caterpillars.

"They *first* act on the outer bark, until it becomes almost black, and finally destroys the tree. It is said that they enjoy but a few days of life, in the spring, and can *then* be easily destroyed. I have observed, that about the time of the first blossoms, they are loose on the bark: and I apply a white wash, mixed of lime, soap, fresh cowdung and water, which effectually destroys them on every part of the tree to which it is applied.

"As for the caterpillars, I never suffer them to remain on any tree over 36 hours after I discover them. The process of destroying them, is by boring a small hole, two or three inches deep, into the body of the tree, nearly filling it with common sulphur, and stopping it with a soft wood plug, driven tight, but not so hard as to split the wood or bark. They rarely remain twelve hours afterwards. In a practice of eight or nine years, neither of these methods has failed in a single instance."

Mange in Hogs.

A correspondent of the Southern Planter says, "During my travels through this state, especially in towns and villages, I see a vast number of swine dying with what is called the *Mange*, while many others are upon the eve of expiring. This disease is very easily cured if persons would only take the trouble of pulverising sulphur, and give to each hog affected one table spoonful in a little corn meal dough twice a week for two weeks; they will shed the scurf and become perfectly clean and fatten. The sulphur at the same time destroys lice and fleas on the swine."

MR. TUCKER—Please inform your correspondent, A Farmer, that R. M. W. cannot speak above a whisper—that he cannot walk, or write. In dictating his former communication, his scribe used the word *carbonic acid* by mistake. The error was immediately perceived on reading the communication and noticed.

ERRATA.—Page 201, col. 3, line 24, for Cyprypedium read Cypripedium. Professor Griscom resides at Providence, (R. I.) instead of New York, as stated on page 204.

Rochester Aqueduct.

The Canal Commissioners (the Hon. Samuel Young, Wm. C. Bouck, J. Earle, Jr. and Martin Hoffman,) closed their session in this city on Thursday evening. The Commissioners had a subject of great magnitude under consideration—the condition of the Rochester Aqueduct and best mode of reconstructing it. They finally resolved to rebuild the work, and double its present width, extending an entirely new stone wall 17 feet along its south side, and 10 feet along its north side; connected by building under all its arches *new ones* of nicely cut Onondaga lime stone, or Boston granite; carrying up the parapet walls of Lockport stone, with iron balusters on the coping, excavating the rock of the bed of the river to afford free passage to the water. The saw mills and other obstructions are to be removed, the work to be begun forthwith, and prosecuted with the least possible delay, so as to be navigable on the opening of the canal next spring.—In the mean time the navigation to continue as usual over the present aqueduct, the parapet walls of which not to be removed until spring.

The Weather.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the present week are numbered with the warmest days we have had for many years. On Monday from 1 o'clock to sundown, the mercury ranged from 91 to 93 degrees—on Tuesday at 1 o'clock, it was at 92°, and on Wednesday at 2 o'clock, was at 95°. The warmest days in the last three years, were as follows:

1831—June 3,	- - - - -	95 degrees.
1832—July 6,	- - - - -	94 "
1833—July 21	- - - - -	91 "

Our correspondent at Greatfield, Cayuga county, in a note dated half past 4 o'clock on Wednesday, says—"The mercury now stands at 93° in the shade, suspended on a shrub two feet from the ground, surrounded by verdure, and not affected by reflection from any building. This is summer indeed."

The Albany Argus says that the thermometer in that city on Tuesday, ranged from 86 to 94° in the shade.

In Albany, on Wednesday, at 3 o'clock, P. M. it was 94.

The New York Journal of Commerce in its evening edition of Tuesday, dated at 2 o'clock, says—"We live to day in an oven; the bottom of which is the earth, and the arch the skies. The thermometer stood early in the morning at 83 in the shade, being five degrees higher than the same thermometer in the same position twenty-four hours previous. At 1-2 past 11 o'clock, Lynch & Clark's thermometer, in Wall street, stood at 91, borrowing probably some heat from the refraction of the sun's rays. It is now perfectly shielded and stands at 90."

At New York, on Tuesday afternoon, the mercury rose to 94 deg., and was no lower than 90 deg. during the evening. At 8 o'clock, on Wednesday, it stood at 86 deg., and at 2 o'clock at 92 deg.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Canada Thistles.

This troublesome weed may be destroyed by cropping the land which is encumbered with it with buckwheat. The thistle is biennial, and the philosophy of its destruction consists in so cultivating your land as that none of the plant shall ripen any of its seed. Buckwheat is put into the ground about the 20th of June, and tillage at that time will prevent the spring growth of the thistle from ripening. It will grow again, but will fail to ripen, the crop being cut off in the fall when the second growth of the thistle is in full blossom. Our Yankee antipathy to the crop of buckwheat, ought not to prevent the farmer from attempting by its means to root out so obnoxious a weed as the Canada Thistle. B. C——N.

From the Journal of Science and the Arts.

Of the Death of Plants.

From the French of M. C. F. Brisseau Mirbel.

Plants, like animals, unless destroyed by disease or casualties, are doomed to die of old age.

In many of the *mucores* (plants which constitute mouldiness) *byssi*, and mushrooms, the verge of life does not extend beyond a few days, or even hours.

The herbaceous plants we call annuals, die of old age considerably within the term of a year. In our climates their death takes place on the approach of winter. But we are not on that account to conclude that cold is the primary cause of the event; a milder climate would not have protracted their existence. Plants of this nature which grow under the line itself, are scarcely longer lived than those which grow in the regions bordering on the poles. In both situations they perish when the propagation of the species has been secured by the ripening of the seed.

In the herbaceous plants we call biennials only leaves make their appearance in the first year. These generally die away when the winter comes; in the spring a new foliage, the forerunner of the flower stem, is evolved. The blossom soon appears, this is followed by seed, after which the biennial dies in the same way as the annual.

In the herbaceous plants called perennials, the parts exposed to the action of the light and air perish every year after they have seeded; but the root survives in the ground, new stems are thrown up in the following spring, and blossom and seed is again produced.

In the generality of woody plants, death does not supervene until the process of fructification has been repeated for a greater or less number of years. There are trees, however, belonging to the monoctoyledonous class, as the sago-tree, (*sagus farinifera*,) the umbrella tree (*corypha umbraculifera*,) with immense fan formed leaves of eight or ten yards in length, which only bear fruit once, and then die, but, on the other hand, in the dicotyledonous class there are enormous trees, whose existence seems to date from before the records of history, and which, in spite of their antiquity, are loaded in each returning year with blossom and seed.

If we were to view the perennial and the woody plants as simple individuals, as such we should be naturally induced to conclude, that unless destroyed by disease or casualties, they were free from the liability to death from old age; but a due consideration leads us to distinguish in every perennial and woody plant, the new part which actually lives and grows, from the old which has ceased to grow and is dead.

I will state this in a broader way. Plants of

this nature have two modes of propagating their races; one by seeds, the other by a continuous evolution of the like parts.

In the first case, the seed presents us with an embryo plant, a new and different individual, independent and unconnected with that from which it derived its existence; in the second case, we are presented with a series of individuals, which issue from the surface the one of the other, in an uninterrupted sequence, and in some instances continue permanently united. But whether individuals of this description are produced by seed or continuous evolution, it is certain that they escape, in neither case, the influence of time; while the succession of individuals, or what we may call the race, produced in either of the ways, is, on the other hand, as clearly beyond the reach of age, and will endure until destroyed by some extraneous cause.

We will endeavor to show how these general laws apply.

All the parts of the young herbaceous annual are susceptible of enlargement; the cells of the tubes, at first very small, are soon after extended in every way; in process of time their membranous walls, fortified by the absorption of nutricious juices, grow thicker, and lose by degrees their original pliancy. The membranes once hardened, excitement ceases to be produced, and the vital functions are at an end; nourishment is no longer drawn, growth is at a stand, and the plant, unable to resist the ceaseless attacks of the external agents employed by nature for its destruction, decays in a short time.

Similar causes induce similar results in the stems of the herbaceous perennials; but there the root is regenerated by a succession of continuous evolutions.

By renewals of the same nature, the life of shrubs and trees proceeds. In them the liber or inner bark represents the herbaceous plant, and has like that only a short period of vegetative existence. For when vegetation revives in the woody plant on the return of spring, it is because a new liber, endowed with all the properties of a young herbaceous plant, has replaced under the cortex or rind the liber of the preceding year, which has hardened and become wood.

The yews of Surrey, which are supposed to have stood from the time of Julius Cæsar, and are now two yards in diameter; the cedars on Mount Lebanon, nine yards in girth, from the measurement of the learned Labillardiere; the fig tree of Malabar, according to Rumphius, usually from sixteen to seventeen yards round; the stupendous chestnuts on Mount Ætna, one of which, Howell tells us, measnred seventeen yards in circumference; the ceibas of the eastern coast of Africa, of such bulk and hight that a single stick is capable of being transformed into a pitogua or sailing vessel of eighteen or twenty yards from stem to stern, and of three or four in the waist; the baobab of Senegal, of ten or twelve yards in girth, and, according to the computation of Adanson, five or six thousand years old; all of these, giants as they are, vegetate, as does the smallest bush, solely by the thin herbaceous layer of the liber annually produced at the inner surface of their bark. The concentric layers of preceding libers constitute the mass of the wood, a lifeless skeleton, serving solely to support the new formed parts, and to conduct to them the juices by which they are fed; nor is it even necessary for these functions that this should be in an entire state. Willows and chestnuts, when quite hollow at the heart, still continue to grow with vigor; but in their soundest state, strip them of their bark, and they quickly perish.

Thus reflection teaches us that the long life of the greater part of trees, and the immortality which at first sight appears to have been imparted to others as well as to the whole of the herbaceous perennial plants, form in reality no exception to the general law which destines every organised individual to perish in determined course; since we see that the old parts of the roots of the herbaceous perennial continue constantly to die away under ground, and are succeeded by new ones, and that the concentric layers which constitute the wood or heart of the trunks of trees, are no other than the accumulated remains of bygone generations, in which vegetation and life are entirely extinct.

This appears to us the true view of the nature of the life and death of such beings as are constantly regenerated by the successive evolutions of like continuous parts.

And we may observe that the liber which is formed on the stem of the tree of centuries old, if the tree has met with no accidental injury to affect its health, enjoys the vegetative power in as full force as the liber which is formed on that of the sapling; and that a sound well grown scion from the aged but healthy tree, affords as good a cutting for propagation as that taken from the young one, so that the race might be perpetuated by cuttings alone, without the assistance of seeds. From this we are entitled to conclude, that, according to the course of nature, the progress of regeneration by continuous evolution, would never be arrested, if the overgrown size of the branches and stem, the hardening of the wood, and the obstructions of the channels which permeate it, did not impede the circulation of the sap, and consequently its access to the liber.

In fine, what we call death by old age in a tree, to speak correctly, is the extinction of that portion of a race which has been carried on by continuous evolution; the inevitable result of an incidental death in the liber occasioned by the privation of nourishment.

The life of trees has been commonly divided into three stages: infancy, maturity, and old age. In the first, the tree increases in strength from one day to the other; in the second, it maintains itself without sensible gain or loss; in the third, it declines. These stages vary in every species, according to soil, climate, aspect, and the nature of the individual plant. The common oak usually lasts from six to nine hundred years, and the stages of its existence are of about two or three hundred years each. It has been observed to live longer in a dry than in a wet soil. The same may be said of the chestnut.

Every species, in order that it may attain its due growth, requires a certain temperature, to be found within limits of a greater or less extent.

The common oak, the fir, the birch, &c. thrive most towards the north; the ash, the olive tree, &c. in the warmest parts of Europe; the baobab, the ceiba, and the palm, flourish and become robust no where but between the tropics.

According to Sir Humphrey Davy, the respective quantities of carbon furnished by different woods afford a tolerably exact scale wherewith to measure their longevities. Those in which carbonic and earthy substances abound, are the most lasting; and those in which the largest proportion of gaseous elements is found, are the least so. This rule may hold good in regard to our indigenous trees; but I doubt whether the baobab, the ceiba, and many other tropical trees, the wood of which is of a loose and soft texture, will afford from masses of equal size, the same proportion of carbon as our oaks, chestnuts, or elms, although they grow to a much greater age.

Sir Humphrey Davy is also of an opinion, that trees of the same species grow to a more advanced period in the north than in the south, as cold guards against fermentation and dissolution of parts; but every tree lives the longest when it is in that climate best adapted to its nature. Sir Humphrey's opinion would be unquestionable, if the vegetable species in view were organised, so as to be adapted to grow in all the climates of the globe, and it was then found that their duration was constantly greater towards the poles than towards the line. I do not doubt that more oaks of a great age, and more firs also, are found in the north than in the south of Europe; but it is on the other hand beyond a doubt, that the ashes of Calabria and Sicily, are longer lived than those of Prussia and Great Britain. These are phenomena which depend upon the particular nature of species, and of this subject we know nothing.

In proportion as a tree increases in size, the vessels of its ligneous layers become obstructed, and the sap circulates with less freedom; hence absorption and secretion decrease after youth, in proportion as the bulk of the tree is enlarged. The liber is less vigorous; the buds and roots become fewer and feebler; the branches wither; the stem decays at the head; water settles in the injured parts; the wood molders away. Ere long the new liber, the annual herbaceous part of woody vegetables, loses the power of completing its regeneration, new parts are no longer evolved, and the tree perishes.

The tree after death is overrun by *pucciniæ*, *mucores*, *sphæriæ*, and other cryptogamous plants; it attracts and imbibes moisture, no longer as formerly by the absorbing power of its organs, but by the hygrometrical property it derives from its porous conformation, and the chemical action of the elements which compose it; the oxygen of the atmosphere consumes a part of its substance; some water is generated, carbonic acid gas is disengaged; and the rest is resolved into vegetable mold, (*humus*,) a fat brown powdery substance, eminently fertile, in which we find in different proportions the same elements of those of which vegetables are composed, and which have the faculty of decomposing air and combining with its oxygen.

It is thus the career of plants is terminated in the order of things. The earth they adorn in the period of vegetation, is fertilized by their remains; germs impregnated with new life have already been confided to its bosom, ready to supply the by-gone generations, and through the death of individuals an unfading youth is secured to the race.

According to a recent census, the city of Rochester contains something over 12,000 inhabitants.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Diagonal Ploughing among CORN.

Mr. Tucker—He that can in any way contribute to the saving of human or brute labor, is undoubtedly a benefactor both to man and beast, and is bound to make that discovery or invention known for the common benefit.

About three years since a little illiterate Dutchman in my employ, took it into his head, in going through my corn crop the second time, to plough it in a different direction from the first. It soon struck me as an improvement, though originating from a source little to be expected, and performed somewhat to disadvantage on account of the irregularity of the planting. He took more pains in planting the second year, and succeeded better.

I have one field this year of about eight acres, planted in corn the second time in succession—the soil of a coarse gravelly texture inclining to stony—ploughed it once—furrowed, or laid it out for planting, without harrowing, with the common two horse plough, across the furrow one way—the other way with a wooden beam, rigged with fills like a cutter or a one horse wagon, set with pieces of wood in shape and size like the shovel plough. The beam in clear ground might be made to carry three or four rows at once, though mine carries but two, and is drawn by a single horse. I prefer the two horse plough to any other the first time, especially in rough or soddy ground, sufficiently dry, as by its weight it is enabled to keep on a direct line with less variation than the shovel plough, and leaves more distinct traces behind; which is more necessary the first than the second time, as the latter are unbroken, fresh, and can without difficulty be traced in dropping the corn. The depth of the first furrows are in a measure counteracted or partly filled up by the second, or those made by the wooden plough, which of course will be shallow, so that the depth of the furrows may always be made to correspond with the soil, though not always with the season. My corn, at this time, is at least one third larger than the generality of my neighbors, and furrowed rather deep—the season and soil happening both to agree, though in a less favorable season it is not so good.

As nothing is more common than irregularity in planting, by which it will always be found difficult to tend the crop advantageously with the plough, I will remark that our southern and many of our western brethren, as much excel us in the construction and management of the *one* horse plough, as we do them in that of the *two* horse. During a residence of several years in parts of the Carolinas and Georgia, I do not remember seeing any other in use. The corn and cotton crop at the south is always tended with the shovel plough, than which no better can be found under heaven for the purpose, and would be as highly appreciated by the farmers of the north as at the south, were it as well constructed, its merits as well known, and our horses and hands as well trained in the use of it. The method of preparation in both regions is the same, or intended to be, both for corn and cotton, i. e. in drills. That this may be done systematically, the southern planter prepares sight poles or stakes at the end of the rows, with divisions corresponding to the width of the rows, by which they are enabled to set it off into lands or portions containing from four to six rows at a time. The best mules and more experienced hands go ahead, those less so complete the subdivision into rows of a given width. By this simple method, which is attended with the loss of no labor worthy of notice, no variation or confusion is produced in laying off for planting a field of several hundred acres. But the great benefit to be derived, and the object of this communication is, what I never noticed at the south, nor any where else, until blundered upon by my little Dutchman. I mean diagonal or transverse ploughing through the corn, which if laid out with regularity, will be found to be in rows four ways. Two of these ways they will be found to be of the usual distance asunder, too wide for one furrow and too narrow for two. That one furrow is in a great measure lost, to say nothing of the difficulty of keeping the horse out of the furrow on the one hand, or off from the corn on the other. But in a diagonal direction the rows are reduced in width, and most admirably correspond to our moderate furrow of the shovel plough,(and I want no better) which flings as much dirt as necessary both ways to complete the hill.

The corners of the hills which escaped in ploughing in the other direction are torn to pieces, and when the ploughing is completed both ways, no weeds or unbroken ground remains after the corn has attained sufficient size and strength to receive the earth. The hoeing is nearly or all saved, except a little in weeding, while the corn is yet quite small, and the same team will go over at least one third more ground in the same time.

My corn will be laid by after passing a center furrow in the usual direction both ways, without carrying a hoe into it the second time. No summer fallow was ever in finer order. My neighbors around me, (and one a tenant on a part of the same farm) with all the force they can muster, are and have been, most of the time since their corn was large enough to hoe, grubbing away as their forefathers have done before them, with *Bull plough* and boy on the horse (or rather the old *mare*,) and by dint of much nervous exertion in the father, and penance on account of *private* griefs by the *son*, *irritation* and *mutter* in the *old mare generally*, and by ploughing *slightly* and perhaps only one way, prepare as much ground in a few hours in the morning, as the whole of his own force, aided by a levy on the neighborhood can *hoe* in the course of the day. This time thus saved by me has been usefully employed in making wall and completing other valuable improvements on the farm.

I am testing and hope to be able to confirm the experiments made by your correspondent in pages 21 and 30, Nos. 3 and 4, Vol. 4. relative to the destruction of the Canada thistle. At all events, will inform you in due season; as also of the final ingathering of the corn crop. Our guilty land, the finest under heaven, for some cause best known to its Maker, is sorely cursed with both thistles and red root, or as my low Dutch neighbors call it, *stean crout* or *critt*, and that man would deserve more than a diadem, who would instruct us how to get rid of them. No one would receive with more avidity and thankfulness than myself, any information on the subject, calculated to afford consolation.

Though I have fallen far short of my desires in this communication in style and propriety of description, I have greatly exceeded them in prolixity. But whatever of merit it may contain, or of whatever use it may be to the public, as I freely receive so I freely impart. M. R.

Manchester, Ontario co., July 2, 1834.

For the Genesee Farmer.

On the culture of Potatoes and INDIAN CORN.

On passing a well cultivated farm two days ago, I observed in a potato field that the earth had been drawn up into hills nearly one foot high and somewhat conical, closely round the stems; and I doubted if that labor had been well directed. It is now twenty five years since I had a patch of potatoes which we had commenced hoeing in dry weather. A neighbor mildly remonstrated with me against our proceedings, and said that *potatoes hoed in dry weather generally yield a poor crop.* I had not duly considered the subject, but I took his advice, waiting until we had a rain before we hoed the remainder, and the difference in the products of the two parcels was as great as he had predicted,—certainly more than three to one in favor of hoing when the ground was well moistened. It was not so wet however as to be muddy. The cause of this result was that the leaves of the potato shed the rain, and turn it from the hill, perhaps more than any other vegetable which we cultivate; and if the hills be made *high* and *sharp*, and once become dry, a moderate shower of rain will rarely penetrate to the roots.

The potato to yield abundantly, requires a plentiful supply of moisture, although it is very impatient of stagnant water; and some may wonder why its leaves should turn off the very thing for which its roots are languishing. It should be remembered however, that the potato grows indigenously in a very different and distant country from ours. In a state of nature, no hills are piled up round its stems; and in our culture, we ought to consider the constitution of the plant, and remedy as far as practicable, the defects of our climate. If it is cultivated in HILLS, these ought to be neither high nor sharp, but depressed on the summit; or rather shaped like a basin, to catch the rain as it falls, and turn it towards the roots. If it is cultivated in ROWS with the plough, the same object should be borne in mind. I have seen a plough with an additional piece of wood on the mold-board, so as to raise the earth high round the stems; and when the work was finished, the ridges were sharp like the roof of a house, and turned off the water nearly as well. The appearance of the field soon after the operation, was fine; but the crop as we might expect, was very light.

Indian Corn, on the contrary, will bear hilling much better; though I think this business is often overdone. It is very evident that all the loose earth should not be scraped from the furrows between the rows, as I have sometimes seen it; for in heavy loams, the hard ground if left uncovered, is sure to crack in dry weather, and *let out the moisture* from below. I shall recur however to my first remark on this plant. The leaves of Indian Corn are so constructed, as to turn most of the rain that falls on them, down to the roots. After a short but dashing shower, I have soon after found the other parts of the field compara

tively dry, while it seemed as if a basin of water had been poured into each hill. A FARMER.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Meteorological Table, kept at

WHITE HAVEN, GRAND ISLAND.

Buffalo, July 3, 1834.

L. TUCKER, Esq.—*Dear Sir*—I enclose you a table of the thermometer and weather kept at White Haven on Grand Island, in the Niagara river, since 6th February last. The building, in the north side of which the thermometer is kept, is near the river, at that spot about half a mile wide.

It is in itself a matter of little consequence to publish this table, other than as a subject of reference and comparison of climates in different parts of the state, but as such it may be useful. The table will be continued, and if agreeable to you, I will occasionally forward it for publication in the Genesee Farmer.

The late rains have fully saturated the ground in our neighborhood, which had before suffered much from the drouth, and the crops now look promising. Wheat and grass, however, will be lighter than usual.

You may say to our good friends who have so long disputed the subject of chess, that I have a piece of about twelve acres of wheat, of which nearly one third is chess. I purchased the crop after it was sown, of a squatter, who left the premises; but I am fully informed since he left the place, that his seed was foul and mixed with chess. I enter into no argument on the subject, but merely state the fact as a good reason why *my* wheat has chess in it.

Very truly, yours, ULMUS.

THERMOMETER AT

	Sunrise.		1 *o'clock.*		*Sundown.*
Feb.	Deg.	Remarks, A. M.	Deg.	Remarks, P.M	Deg.
6	30½	cloudy	30	cloudy	29
7	19	do. a few flks sno.	20½	do.	18½
8	11	fair	34½	fair	32
9	36	do.	42	cloudy	41
10	33	do.	44	fair	36
11	40½	cld with some rain	43	do.	29
12	10	fair	20	fair & cloudy	28
13	17½	do.	30	fair	28
14	34	snow & rain	36	rainy	35½
15	51	rain	45	fair & rainy	40
16	35	fair	24	fair	31
17	29	do. without a cld.	44	do.	38
18	30½	do. do.	46	fair & uncloudy	46
19	40	fair with clouds	48	light shower	45
20	30	beautifully fair	49	fair	50
21	44	fair	58½	do.	57
22	47	foggy & fair	55	do. 59 at 2 o'cl	48
23	40	rainy	39	cloudy	37
24	32	snowy	31	snowy	27½
25	25	do.	27	do.	26
26	20	fair	30	fair	26
27	28	do.	39	do.	35
28	32	do.	41	cloudy	36
March.					
1	34	cloudy	36	do. & snowy	33
2	34	snowy	28	do. do.	22
3	6	fair	25	fair 2 o'c'k	27 26
4	30	unclouded sky	42	do.	40 40
5	37	do.	49½	uncl'ed sky	37 45
6	43	rainy & fair	48	fair	39 44
7	34	unclouded sky	57	do.	45
8	56	rainy & fair	43	do.	32 40
9	30	fair	33	do.	23 27
10	18	do.	40	uncl'ed sky	31 37
11	32	do.	49	fair	39 42
12	43	rainy	40	cloudy & fair	35
13	24	fair	45	fair	35
14	34	cloudy & snowy	33	cl'y & sno'y	34 34
15	63	cloudy	45	fair	29 34
16	34	fair	45	do.	43
17	31	unclouded sky	57	uncl'ed sky	43 50
18	35	do.	67	fair	60
19	50	rainy	50	cl'y, some rain	47
20		do.		r'ny, heavy hail	43
21	17	fair	30	fair & snowy	21
22	17	do.	32	fair	26½
23	20	cloudy	33	cloudy & snowy	31
24	30	do. few flak's sno.	36	do. do.	32
25	30	snowy, 3 in. fallen	32	light sno. & cl'y	26
26	12	fair	32	fair	24
27	30	do.	40	do.	32
28	31	do.	55	do.	
29	27	snowy, 4 inches	30	snowy & fair	31
30	28	fair	36	fair	30
31	27	do.	48	do.	41
April.					
1	42	cloudy	56	rainy	54
2	30	fair	55	fair	41
3	19	do.	46	do.	36
4	31	do.	56	do.	40
5	31	do.			
6		do.	59		
7	47	cloudy	62	fair	61
8	51	do. & light rain	55		
9	44	fair	60	fair	
10	42	do.	54	do.	
11	44	do.	64	do.	54
12	35	unclouded sky	69	unclouded sky	60
13	44	do.	74	do.	61
14	44	do.—at 12 o'cl.	77	76 fair†	65
15	42	unclouded sky	77	unclouded sky	63
16	42	do.	77	do.	62
17	44	fair, very li't cl'ds	60	do.	62
18	38	unclouded sky	63	do. hazy	65
19	53	rainy			
20		fair	68	fair & showery	59
21	57	do.	60	do. do.	44
22	37	rainy	48	rainy	47
23	37	do.	59	do.	45
24	36	fair	46	fair	40
25	25	do.	43	do.	33½
26	36½	hard snow	44	snowy & fair	35½
27	30	2 in. sno. on gro'd	37	snowy‡	35½
28	36	rainy	47	rainy & fair	38
29	42	do.	49½	do. do.	43
30	31	fair	52	fair	43
May.					
1	32	do.	58	do.	46
2	38	very fair	60	very fair	53
3	33½	unclouded sky	63	do.	50
4	54	very fair	65	do.	56
5	52	cloudy & rainy	66	cl'y rainy & fair	58
6	52	fair	68½	fair	58
7	51	do.	62	do.	49½
8	47	fair—sprinkling	55	cloudy	48
9	45	fair	57	fair	49
10	41	do.	60	do.	50
11	55	do. & rainy	62	do. & rainy	44
12	40	cloudy—snowy	43	rainy	33
13	30	cloudy*	46	fair	37½
14	39	fair& cl'y,h. wind	29½	snowy	27
15	26	do. do.	43½	fair do.	35
16	32	do. do.	51	do. do.	41
17	47	fair	71	fair	49
18	48	do.	76	do.	54
19	49	do.	77	cloudy&smoky	59
20	51	rainy in the morn	71	do. & fair	51
21	53	fair	81	do. do.	
22	57	do.	76½	do. do.	70
23	64	do.	85	do. do.	70½
24	64½	do.	80½	do. do.	69
25		do.		fair	68
26	62	do.	84	do.	70
27	70	do.	83	do.	73
28	60	do.	82	unclouded sky	71
29	58	do.	76	fair with clouds	70
30	57	do.	76	do. do.	60½
31	56	do. with some cl's	82	do. do.	64
Jun.					
1	58	fair, some clouds	84	fair with rain	68
2	52½	high winds & cl'y	60	fair	62½
3	46	fair do.	56	do.	56
4	54	do. cloudy	64	rainy	52
5	51	fair	73	fair	56
6	50	do.	80	do.	50
7	56	do.	84	fair	70
8	57½	do.	84		70
9	55	do.	83½	fair	66
10	66	do. cloudy	84	rainy	67
11	54	rainy	60	do.	51
12	48	cloudy	65	do.	52½
13	52½	do. & fair	64½	cloudy & fair	50
14	50½	fair	80	fair	60
15	52	do.	82½	do.	61½
16	54	do.	83	few cl'ds & fair	64
17	52	do. with clouds	81	do. do.	60
18	48	rainy	70	rainy do.	56
19	56	cloudy	72	cloudy & fair	65
20	56½	fair—few clouds	74	fair with clouds	60½
21	60	fair	75	fair	63
22	61½	do.	80	do.	64
23	63	do.	87	fair, at 2 o'cl	89 68
24	60	rainy	84	fair	62½
25	54	fair	85	do.	64
26	52	do.	83½	do.	61
27	51	do.	82	fair with clouds	60
28	49½	rainy	76	cloudy	58½
29	50	do.	75	showery	56
30	54	fair with few cl'd	76	fair & cloudy	57½

* This morning half inch snow on the ground.
† With light amber clouds.
‡ All day, melted as fell.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Highways---No. XXVI.

What can those people think of, who throw sods and muck into the road while they profess to mend it? Can they ever turn a thought in their heads on the subject? Without searching valuable truths, like gold, may lie hid. A man of capacity through INATTENTION, may commit gross errors. Because a hen commonly obtains her food by scratching, she will scratch when she gets to a heap of clean wheat; and because in *some* places all the ground is hard and gravelly enough to make good roads, some path-masters in *other* places, make no distinction between earth of that kind and sods and muck. Yet circumstances alter cases. In more barren lands than ours, when the road requires to be raised, it may do to use the stuff from the ditches for that purpose, because it is all hard enough to make a firm track; but much of the stuff that is taken from the side ditches of our highways, is rich enough for a potato patch or an onion bed; and ought to be thrown or scraped *in an opposite direction* for the benefit of the adjoining lands. A good road cannot be constructed of sods and muck. After the sods are decayed so much as no longer to obstruct the wheels, it may indeed be tolerable in dry weather; but the first shower of rain that comes, sinks into it as into a summer fallow; and the process of making mortar, commences with the first team that passes along.

The remarkable industry with which some overseers of highways, pile up the earth on the beaten track, indicates in my opinion, a great deficiency of thought and observation. Provided the water from the ditches cannot overflow it, it is high enough; and no material benefit can accrue from making it higher. An elevation of one foot is sufficient. A ridge five feet or even ten feet high, is no surety against little pools or mudholes, as I have often had opportunities to observe; for the water in heavy rains, has no chance to escape down its sides, but must be discharged in a lengthwise direction. The *higher* the road is

raised, within certain limits, the *deeper* and the *wider* will be the ruts; and the *longer* will be the time before they fill up in dry weather, when no drag or scraper is employed.

The Law REQUIRES that on all post roads, the the Commissioners of Highways shall cause MILE-STONES or MILE-BOARDS to be erected; and GUIDE-POSTS *at* the intersections of all the post roads in their town. Do the Commissioners mean to comply with the law on this point? or do they intend to pass over another year under the pretence that the injunction is discretionary? VIATOR.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Locusts.

The septendecennial return of these insects is not general throughout the United States, during the same year. Their last appearance in Virginia and the other states south of the Potomac, was in 1826. According to the opinions of those who had made previous observations in regard to their numbers, they were less numerous then than at former periods, owing probably to the important changes which had taken place on the surface of the earth during their long abode beneath it. Thus when they emerge again into life, they do not in all cases find a convenient receptacle for their eggs, and they fall an easy prey to the various animals that feed upon them, before they can fulfil that law of nature which prompts them to deposite the seeds of a future generation. P.

Virginia, 7 mo. 4th.

From the Baltimore Farmer.

Norfolk Thin Rind Hogs.

We insert in the Farmer of this week, two letters from Wm. K. Townsend, Esq. on the subject of the Norfolk Thin Rind Breed of Hogs. They give a succinct history of the introduction of this breed into our country; and describe their particular qualities, and great value. These letters show how this breed of Hogs is recommending itself through the country, where it has been seen; and where their superior qualities have been contrasted with those of other kinds.

The four shoats, (one boar and three sows,) sent on to us by Mr. Townsend, came safely to hand, are thriving, and promise to do well. We hope to have some next year to dispose of to the numerous applicants for them. In the mean time we intend to procure some further particulars of the method of feeding hogs by steamed food, which has been put in practice by one of our neighbors with such decided advantage as must recommend that mode of feeding to general use.

—

Prospect Hill, 3 miles from New Haven, } 12*th February*, 1834. }

DEAR SIR:—Your much esteemed favor of the 24th ult. came to hand some days since, and should have received an earlier answer. I have a breed of swine, (Norfolk Thin Rind breed,) which are in these parts considered rather before any other breed we have. They were imported something over four years since, by *Henry Degroot*, Esq. of New-York. He was in England, and heard of this breed of hogs as being of much note in that country. He purchased three pigs, and on his return took them to his farm in New Jersey, where he had a superior stock of blood horses and short horned cattle. Immediately after his return, he concluded to go to England, and spend some years in the city of London, and offered me his stock. I purchased two cows, one bull, and two pigs, (one boar and a sow)—the other, a sow, he placed on his father's farm. I have since understood that it has changed the breed for the better, in all that neighborhood. Persons in this part of the country have given them a thorough trial with other breeds; and they, with the same feed, have done better than any other. I usually keep, say five or six breeding sows; and my pigs are usually all engaged before they come. I generally choose a few of the best, and sell them for breeding, at different prices, at different ages:—when well weaned from the sow, five or six dollars each; and as they advance in age, so I advance in price. I should be glad to execute your order for one or more if I had them. I did intend this fall to reserve a few for myself, but could not; people would have them. I could only reserve one boar pig for a breeder, which I cannot sell at any price. My five sows are in pig, and if you wish me to send some of them, (if they have more than are already engaged) I can supply your order. I have seen the remarks about them in the New England Farmer, and what is there said of them is correct. They are a very meaty, small-boned breed; remarkably contented and gentle; do well in pasture, or in small pens; eat any thing, and show by rapid growth what they eat; the skin is remarkably thin, the hair short; short legs, and small rat tail; they mix well with other breeds, of all the different sorts we have in this neighborhood.

The bull I am fattening; he is one of the finest animals I have ever seen; seven years old. One of the cows was imported with the pigs: she is perhaps equal to any other that has been brought to this country, (so say good judges.) I have a stock growing from this breed, that I take much pains in raising. I am so well confirmed in my own mind of the importance of breeding from good animals, that I am determined for *one* to breed from no others.

I remain very respectfully your friend,

WM. K. TOWNSEND.

—

Prospect Hill, 12th June, 1834.

DEAR SIR:—Your favor of the 2d inst. came duly to hand. I was informed this morning that the regular packet schooner Mary & Martha, Capt. Monson, would sail at noon. I sent immediately my man with the pigs—they are safe aboard; I saw her off at 1 o'clock this P. M.—they are in a snug cage, and a bag of feed with them,—the Capt. is a very attentive man, and assured me that he would take good care of them on their passage to Philadelphia,—I hope they will come in good order, and meet your expectations. I have collected the pigs from different sows, that they may breed together: I do not like to breed too near in the way of *relation*. The smallest sow, (black and white) is about three weeks younger than the other; it came from one of my best sows, and is a promising pig, and will soon be as large as the other; its mother is known by the name of *premium sow*. The black and white is quite liked in this section of country; some prefer white. I did not know which (if either) you would prefer, so I send you part of each. My old imported sow was white, the boar black and white, marked almost like them sent to you. This breed of hogs are not particular as to feed; my sows run in pasture, and get most of their living on grass, until nearly time to pig. While they nurse, I feed them on meal, beans, rye, boiled potatoes, and some corn. I am told almost daily, by persons who have pigs from me, or of others that have got into the breed, that their pigs do much better on the same feed than any other they have had. A gentleman from the country, *New Town*, about twenty miles, called at my farm this afternoon for a boar pig, for a breeder; he purchased of me two years since a sow pig, and after he returned home he disposed of her; but the pigs have, he says, beat any thing in the neighborhood; and he has now purchased it back, and is so well convinced of their superiority over the old sort of hogs, that he will in future have no other. He said the sow had this spring ten pigs, and people would have all he could spare at 12½ cents per lb. while others sold for a small price. You wish to know how much these hogs will weigh at a year old. We do not generally butcher them at a year; the spring pigs butchered in the fall, say 8 or 9 months old, will average I think 250 to 300 lbs. Mr. Jeremiah Barrett, of New Haven, butchered one last year that lacked one day of nine months old, that beat all others; its weight was 360 lbs. or thereabouts. Some others have gone nearly up to that. Fall pigs, butchered at say 14 to 16 months old, often weigh from 400 to 460 lbs. There are pigs now that I sold last fall, that will be butchered about next December, that their owners say will go over 450 lbs. each. There are pigs that came in March, which if they continue to thrive as now, will be fully equal to any that were fattened last year, or the year before. A farmer from a neighboring town met me yesterday, and remarked, "I have finally adopted your breed of hogs,—I would not believe any body had so good a breed as I had, but I am now satisfied that mine can be improved." I would here remark that since this breed has become noted, people are selling pigs of a very different sort for the real *Thin Rind*. Some farmers have purchased a black and white boar of very little blood, and perhaps none, and put it to their old sows, and then sold their pigs for the real improved breed. People are now beginning to see into their tricks, and will not be so easily imposed upon.

I remain very respectfully your friend,

WM. K. TOWNSEND.

From Mr. Minor's new periodical, the Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, Mechanics and Manufactures, the following article is copied. The writer, HENRY W. DELAVAN, Esq. of Ballston, is, says the Albany D Advertiser, "well known to be one of the best practical agriculturists in the state, and his farm in Saratoga county is the admiration of those who appreciate the results of a union of zeal, industry and science, in the pursuit of agriculture."

The Relative Pleasures and

PROFITS OF AGRICULTURE.

SIR,—I have received your letter of the 15th of March, and regret that neither my experience or ability is adequate to do justice to the various topics you have intimated relating to the subject of agriculture.

Since you have paid me the compliment to consult my opinions, I will endeavor briefly to state

them, in a manner which will substantially constitute a reply to your several inquiries.

The pursuit of husbandry has not yet attained to the rank to which it is entitled in the northern portion of the United States—a rank which is conceded to it in some other sections of our country, and among the most enlightened nations of Europe. This circumstance will serve to retard advances in this most useful avocation, which a higher estimate on the part of the enlightened classes of our citizens could not fail to create. Yet it cannot be doubted that this department of life will more and more be sought for its intrinsic advantages, presenting as it does a healthful occupation to mind and body, and a stability which no other pursuit can equal. It might seem invidious to institute comparisons among the several occupations incident to civilized life. Let it suffice that each has its appropriate usefulness, and that husbandry is not the least useful or least honorable among them. Many illustrious men have borne testimony to the diversified pleasure of rural life and that it affords occupation to the most enlarged capacity.

In reply to the question, whether "capital may be profitably invested in cultivated land," I confidently answer *it can*; *and I am of the opinion, that in no other way can a moderate fortune be so profitably employed.* In adopting this conclusion I am supposing the objects to be saftey, productiveness, comfortable life, pleasant occupation, the education of children, and the transmission of property to descendants.

It may on a superficial view appear paradoxical, that the cultivation of land can compete in profits with the adventures of commerce, or the operations of machinery. It is the greater uniformity in the products of land, contrasted with the ever fluctuating character of commerce and manufactures, which establishes the point in question. If it be true, as is asserted, that in our own country every twenty years witness the *insolvency* of the whole aggregate trading community, what does it not argue in favor of a pursuit in which a man need never fail?

The habits of expense engendered by commerce constitute a heavy annual levy upon the income of the prosperous merchant. Those habits are too likely to survive the prosperity which fostered them, than which a more deplorable condition cannot well be imagined. But he who resides on a landed estate, and practices assiduity and evinces the intelligence of the merchant, the manufacturer or professional man, may sustain himself during periods of depression without a diminution of capital at any rate. His habits are frugal which is equivalent to wealth; his daily occupation is a lesson of economy, a term seldom addressed and never palatable to American ears, a virtue as far removed from meanness as it is from prodigality, the more general practice of which could not fail to give greater stability to private and public prosperity.

The trading classes usually incur debts beyond the capital possessed by them, and frequently credit alone is the expedient relied upon. The farmer of even small possession need incur no debts; this difference is vital, and gives to the land proprietor a guarantee of success and certainty which other classes cannot possess. My object in the preceding remarks is to inculcate the idea that to those who are in circumstances to elect their mode of life, agricultural pursuits are most eligible. But in order to succeed in husbandry in the condition of things existing among us, the proprietor must vigilantly conduct his own affairs; he may hire men to labor, but he cannot so readily hire them to think. A man with us, who has a respectable capacity, will become a small proprietor rather than a hireling. Agriculture is *not an amusement* more than law or commerce are such; and what lawyer or merchant could dream of success while leading a life of idleness or pleasure.

Agriculture is not incompatible with mental cultivation; it is favorable to virtue, as the farmer knows nothing of the strifes and rivalries, which grow out of competition in other pursuits, and which lead men to look with an evil eye upon the prosperity or skill of a neighbor. The country resident escapes many of the time-destroying frivolities of the town, and, on the other hand, has fewer of the social advantages which conduce to refinement. These things may be offset to the freedom and healthfulness of rural existence, where man draws less of his satisfaction from others, and more from himself and the works of God, divested of the conventional rules which constitute an artificial existence.

There is one part of your letter which I deem it important to notice, the most practical part, and relates to the articles of culture which an agriculturist should select as his own, among the many.

* * * * * * *

In determining the objects of culture to which a person attempting farming should select as primary, the circumstances of soil, position and the price of land, should govern. In western New York, wheat is the great staple, for the reason that much of the soil of that region is well adapted to its production. The Hudson river counties, on the contrary, seem by the variety of soil to be favorable to the dairy, wool-growing, and stock generally, as also to the growth of all the grains produced in a northern latitude.

What is denominated *convertible husbandry*, or rotation of crops, is the improved feature in modern husbandry, as it conduces to the constant improvement of land; and while it diminishes labor it increases products. Neither grazing or cropping exclusively can be deemed judicious, as both when combined are admirably calculated to aid each other, the former supplying manures to give a profitable effect to the operations of the plough; and besides the regular employment given to laborers at all seasons, by uniting the different parts into one system, is an advantage which every economist will appreciate.

In conclusion, I would decidedly discourage amateur farming, as it usually is brief in its history and disastrous in its results. But to such as seek rational employment where a comparative independence may be enjoyed, I would recommend agriculture.

If I may be allowed to speak of my individual undertakings, I would say that in an investment of a large sum in the course of a few years, in lands, improvements, and animals, commenced in inexperience, and misdirected by ignorance, my anticipations of profit have not been disappointed. The nature and magnitude of the trust has tied my attention to its accomplishment, and I have the satisfaction of finding my income yearly increasing and my expenditures diminishing.

I am, sir, yours, &c.
HENRY W. DELAVAN.

Ballston, May 1, 1834.

Several gentlemen left Philadelphia and New York, simultaneously, at 4 A. M. and each party spent three hours in each city, on the 4th of July, and returned to their respective homes before dark. This unprecedented exploit was performed over the Camden and Amboy Rail Road, to and from Amboy.—*Newark D. Adv.*

List of Subscribers

Who have paid for the 4th volume of the Genesee Farmer—continued.

Israel Curtiss.	Samuel Young.
Malcom Little.	Joseph Williams, to July, 1835.
Thom. H. P. Scales.	James Holloway, to July, 1835.
Stephen Van Rensselaer, 2 copies.	

G. S. Lanterman.

First half of Vol. 4.

James Brown.	John Sperry.

Last half of Vol. 4.

John Winslow.	Gharles A. Smith.

A lad, aged about fourteen years, son of Mr. John White, of Kensington, was drowned in the Delaware, on Tuesday afternoon. He ventured into deep water without being able to swim, and sunk before assistance could reach him.

Meteorological Table,

KEPT AT ROCHESTER, FOR JUNE, 1834.

	10 A. M.				10 P. M.			
Days.	therm.	barometer.	winds	sky	therm.	barometer.	winds.	sky
1	78	29,35	S W	fair	76	29,10	S W	cloudy*
2	58	29,20	N	cly h.wi	47	29,25	N W	fair†
3	58	29,35	N W	fair	54	29,30	N W	do
4	70	29,20	S W	do	54	29,05	E	cly, rainy
5	65	29,30	N E	do	60	29.40	N E	fair
6	72	29,50	N W	do	61	29 45	E	do
7	78	29,45	N	do	74	29,45	S E	do
8	78	29,45	E	do	76	29,40	N E	do‡
9	78	29,45	W	do	76	29,55	W	do
10	73	29,40	S E	cloudy	78	29,20	S W	do§
11	65	29,30	W	do	52	29,45	W	cloudy¶
12	64	29,55	W	fair	62	29 45	W	do
13	58	29,40	W	cly, ra'y	56	29,45	N W	fair
14	56	29,60	N E	fair	53	29,55	N E	do‖
15	71	29,50	E	do	60	29,40	E	do**
16	72	29,40	N E	do	66	29,40	E	do
17	72	29,30	S E	cloudy	62	29,15	S E	cloudy††
18	66	29,10	W	do. rai'y	57	29,15	W	do. rainy
19	58	29,15	W	do do	60	29 25	W	fair‡‡
20	68	29,25	W	fair	60	29 30	S E	do
21	60	29,30	E	do	64	29,25	E	do‖‖
22	78	29 25	S W	do	66	29,45	S W	do
23	78	29,45	S E	do	78	29,25	S W	cloudy§§
24	74	29,25	S W	cloudy	62	29,55	W	fair¶¶
25	73	29 65	S	fair	74	29,55	W	do
26	68	29,55	S W	do	64	29,70	W	do. show's
27	60	29,70	N W	do	62	29,65	W	fair
28	64	29,55	S E	cloudy	63	29,40	S E	cly, rainy
29	71	29,35	S W	cly, rai'y	62	29,40	S W	cloudy
30	66	29 55	N W	cloudy	62	29,55	W	fair

Mean daily temp. 65½°—press. 29.38—rain 1 9-10 inch.

Mean tem. for June 1831 was 71°—rain 3 4-10 in.
" " " 1832 " 70°— " 1 2-10 "
" " " 1833 " 62°— " 2 6-10 "
" " " 1834 " 65½— " 1 9-10 "

* Thunder showers. † Fires very comfortable. ‡ Ther 84° at 1 P. M. § Frequent showers. ¶ Cold—cloaks &c. in use. ‖ Cold wind all day. ** Temperature of spring water 52°. †† Thunder showers. ‡‡ Frequent showers. ‖‖ Very pleasant and temp comfortable. §§ Ther. 84° at 2 P. M. ¶¶ h. w. showers.

The cold north wind of the 2d killed many cucumber vines in this city. Many supposed it the work of frost, but we believe this was not the case, from the fact that the leaves of many trees on the north side were blighted, while those on the opposite side were unaffected—showing it evidently to be the effect of the north wind, which blew strong during the day and evening.

PRICES CURRENT.

ARTICLES.	PER	*July* 11. ROCHESTER.	*July* 7. NEW-YORK.
Ashes—Pot....	100lbs.	$3,25.....	$4,00 a 0,00
—— Pearl..	.....	3,50.....	4,30 a 0,00
Beeswax, yellow	lb.	0,16 a 0,18	20 a 21
Candles, mould	.....	0,10 a 0,11	13. a 14
—— dipped.	.....	0,09 a 0,10	11 a 12
Cloverseed.....	.....	6½..... ...	6 .a. 6¼
Flax, American.	.....	.....	8..a. 8½
Flax seed, clean	tierce	9,00a10,00	10,50a11,00
Flour, Western.	barrel	4,50.....	4,87a5,00
Grain, Wheat..	bushel	0,87.....	1,06 a1,08
—— Rye....	.....	0,62.....	60..a..62
—— Oats...	.....	0,25..a..27	37..a..38
—— Corn...	.....	0,44.....	68..a..69
—— Barley..	.....	0,50..a..56	70..a..71
Hemp, Americ'n	ton	.....	100 a 125
Hops, 1st sort .	lb.	.....	10..a..11
Plaster Paris...	ton	6,00 a 0,00	2,62 a0,00
Beef, Mess....	barrel	0,00 a10,00	9,12 a9,75
—— Prime....	.....	0,00 a 8,00	5,62 a 5,75
Pork, Mess....	.....	14,00a15,00	13,25a14,00
—— Prime....	.....	11,00	9,25a10,50
—— in the hog.	100lbs.	4,00.....	.....
Tallow.....	.....	7,50 à 8,00	6,75 a 7,00
Hay.....	ton	7,00 a 8,00	9,00a11,20
Apples.....	bushel	50..a..100	.....

Summer Wind.

BY WILLIAM C. BRYANT.

It is a sultry day; the sun has drunk
The dew that lay upon the morning grass;
There is no rustling in the lofty elm
That canopies my dwelling—and its shade
Scarce cools a man! All is silent save the faint
And interrupted murmurs of the bee,
Settling on the thick flowers, and then again
Instantly on the wing. The plants around
Feel the too potent fervors—the tall maize
Rolls up its long green leaves; the clover droops
Its tender foliage, and declines its blooms.
But far in the fierce sunshine tower the hills,
With all their growth of woods, silent and stern;
As if the scorching heat and dazzling light
Were but an element they loved. Bright clouds—
Motionless pillars of the brazen heaven—
Their bases on the mountains—their white tops
Shining in the far ether—fire the air
With a reflected radiance, and make turn
The gazer's eye away. For me, I lie
Languidly in the shade, where the thick turf,
Yet virgin from the kisses of the sun,
Retains some freshness; and I woo the wind
That still delays its coming. Why so slow,
Gentle and voluble spirit of the air?
Oh come and breathe upon the fainting earth
Coolness and life. Is it that in his eaves
He hears me? See, on yonder woody ridge,
The pine is bending his proud top; and now
Among the nearer groves, chestnut and oak
Are tossing their green boughs about. He comes!
Lo where the grassy meadow runs in waves!
The deep distrustful silence of the scene
Breaks up with mingling of unnumbered sounds
And universal motion. He is come
Shaking a shower of blossoms from the shrubs
And bearing on their fragrance; and he brings
Music of birds, and rustling of young boughs,
All sound of swaying branches, and the voice
Of distant waterfalls. All green herbs
Are stirring in his breath; a thousand flowers
By the road side and borders of the brook
Nod gaily to each other: Glossy leaves
Are twinkling in the sun, as if the dew
Were on them yet: and silver waters break
Into small waves, and sparkle as he comes.

Notice to Literary Persons.

A deposite has been made with the Life Insurance and Trust Company in the city of N. York, subject to the control of the subscribers and their associates, for the purpose of procuring LECTURES, or ESSAYS, on various subjects connected with scientific education, to be read in the Common Schools of this State. To carry this purpose into effect, the subscribers give notice that they, or either of them, will receive manuscript essays or lectures on the following subjects, at any time before the first day of June, 1835, and that to the authors of such of them as shall be selected or approved, by the superintendent of common schools, and the subscribers and their associates, there will be paid the premiums hereinafter mentioned.

Should parts of several lectures be taken the premium for the course of lectures on that particular subject, will be divided among their authors, in proportion to the quantity taken. The lectures are to be adapted to the capacities of children, and are to be divided into portions or sections, one of which can be conveniently read in half an hour.

The following are the subjects, on each of which a course, or series of lectures is now solicited:—

1. On the application of Science to the useful arts:—for the best course of lectures on which, a premium of $200 will be paid.

2. On the principles of Legislation—the premium will be $100.

3. On the intellectual, moral, and religious instruction of the youth of this State, by means of Common Schools—the duty of affording such instruction—and the improvements of which the system may be susceptible—a premium of 250 dollars.

4. On Agriculture and Horticulture;—a premium of $100.

5. On Political Economy,—a premium of 100 dollars.

6. On Astronomy, Chemistry, Mechanics, Electricity, and Magnetism—a premium of 200 dollars.

It is not expected that the essays will be entirely original, either in matter or manner, but rather that the best authorities will be consulted; and even abstracts of the writings of approved authors will be received, if the original authority is designated. It is not desirable that the lecturer should dwell on detail, except where it may be useful for the purpose of illustration; nor will the brevity which is essential to the plan, permit useful elementary instruction on the subject of the course of essays. General principles and results, and those striking and plain illustrations, which will excite attention and inquiry—which will be calculated to deposite in the youthful mind the seeds of knowledge, and lead it to investigation and reflection, will best promote the object in view.

It is desired that the authors will not communicate their names with their essays; and that they will not furnish any means by which they may be known, until after the selection is made. They are requested to adopt some motto or fictitious signature; and to accompany their communications with a sealed note, containing the address of the author, on which will be endorsed the motto or signature used in the essay. Such of the notes only will be opened, as have an endorsement corresponding with that of the sealed lectures to which a premium shall be awarded; the others, with their accompanying essays, will be subject to the direction of their authors.

The lectures selected will be presented and distributed to every common school in this State: and subject from time to time, to such use; the authors may, if they please, secure the copy right of their productions.

JOHN C. SPENCER, Canandaigua.
BENJAMIN F. BUTLER, Albany.
PHILO C. FULLER, Genesee.

Essays will be received from any quarter, either in this country or from abroad, and may be transmitted to either of the subsribers, at their charge.

P. S. The time specified in the first publication of the above note, for the delivery of essays, having expired, and but few contributions having been presented for examination, the undersigned are induced to believe that want of sufficient publicity, and perhaps some misapprehensions as to the precise character of the papers solicited, have prevented that attention to the subject which it was hoped would have been given to it. This belief is confirmed by the suggestions and inquiries contained in several letters which have been received on the subject of the notice. The undersigned have therefore thoughi it proper to republish their original notice, with an enlargement of the time to the 1st of June 1835, and to state in addition to the matters contained therein, the following particulars.

1st. The trust committed to the undersigned and their associates, requires them to issue proposals for essays or lectures on six different branches, three of which, not included in their former notice are now introduced into the annexed notice, and as it is intended to embrace the whole series of subjects (six in number,) in one volume, to be published and distributed gratuitously to the common schools of the State of New York, it will be necessary that all lectures should not exceed, in the aggregate, 350 pages of long primmer, 12mo.

2d. In order to compress the matter within the above limits, the essays or lectures on any one subject ought not, on the average, to exceed in the whole, about sixty pages. Probably all that it may be useful to state on the "Principles of Legislation," may be embraced in half that number of pages; but of this, each writer must judge for himself.

3d. It is supposed that ten pages of type above mentioned, will be as much as can usefully be read at one time; and this will therefore be the appropriate length of each section or separate lecture.

4th. In regard to the style of the compostions, and the degree of attainment which may be supposed to be possessed by the pupils for whose instruction the lectures are designed, the undersigned can only repeat that the essays which they are directed to procure, are intended to be read in commom schools of this State, and ought to be adapted to the comprehension of such children as are usually found therein. The essays on the instruction of youth, by means of common schools, &c. being rather intended for the teachers than the pupils, may, to some extent, form an exception to this remark.

5th. The essays on "The application of Science to the useful Arts," may occasionally include a reference to cuts or engravings; but the fund at the disposal of the subscribers will not allow of this mode of illustration to any considerable extent.

B. F. BUTLER.
J. C. SPENCER.
P. C. FULLER.

May 20th, 1834.

☞ It is hoped that editors generally, will be willing to promote the meritorious objects of this notice, by giving it a few insertions in their papers gratuitously.

SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN—*An Ærial Steam boat.*—A gentleman in Cincinnati, by the name of Mason, has invented an ærial steamboat, in which he proposes to ascend on the 4th of July. It is said that the inventer is very sanguine, having already made (to him) a very satisfactory experiment.

The boat is thus described in a Cincinnati paper:—"It is about ten feet long; the ribs being covered with silk, in order to render it very light. The engine, of two horse power, is placed in the middle, and turns four vertical shafts projecting over the *bow and stern*, into each of which are fixed four spiral silken wings which are made to revolve with a sufficient velocity to cause the vessel to rise. Over the whole is fixed a moveable silken cover designed to assist in counteracting the gravitating force, at the same time tending to assist in its propulsion. The whole boat, including the engine, weighs 60 pounds, and has cost about $300."

WONDERFUL PRESERVATION.—In September last the Schooner New Connecticut, bound from Conneaut to Buffalo, was capsized off Northeast, Pen., and was supposed to have sunk. She was subsequently discovered, not sunk, but righted, and Mrs. Mary Applebee, of Colden, (now of Black Rock,) after being *five days* in the cabin partly immersed in water came out alive, like one from the dead! Mrs. Applebee (says the Buffalo Patriot) has prepared a narrative of the circumstances attending the disaster to the vessel, and her astonishing preservation and deliverance from such imminent perils. It is a narrative of thrilling interest, and the facts are corroborated by abundant and unquestioned testimony. It is now in press and will be published in a few days, and we hope the public will extend a liberal patronage to this lady, who has passed through suffering and trials of such a peculiar nature.

HOW TO GILD MANUSCRIPT WRITING.—Dissolve a little gum ammoniac in a small quantity of water, in which a little gum arabic and the juice of garlic have been previously dissolved. Write with this liquid instead of ink, or form characters with it by means of a camel's hair pencil. Let the characters dry, then breathe upon them, and apply leaves of gold to them as for any other kind of gilding. The superfluous gold may be removed by a brush, the writing will then appear covered with gold and may be burnished.